

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

☐ Original ☐ Supplemental ☐ Substitute ☒ PCT ☐ DESIGN

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: CONNECTING DEVICE FOR A PIPE OR SIMILAR

of which is described and claimed in:

- ☐ the attached specification, or
☐ the specification in application Serial No. _____, filed _____, and with amendments through _____, or
☒ the specification in International Application No. PCT/EP2004/004586, filed April 30, 2004, and as amended on (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (and §172 if this application is for a Design) of any application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NO. | DATE OF FILING | PRIORITY CLAIMED |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Germany | 203 09 704.1 | June 23, 2003 | YES |
| Germany | 203 09 922.2 | June 25, 2003 | YES |
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| APPLICATION SERIAL NO. | U.S. FILING DATE | STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
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| | | |

And I hereby appoint Michael R. Davis, Reg. No. 25,134; Matthew M. Jacob, Reg. No. 25,154; Warren M. Cheek, Jr., Reg. No. 33,367; Nils Pedersen, Reg. No. 33,145; Charles R. Watts, Reg. No. 33,142; Michael S. Huppert, Reg. No. 40,268; and Jeffrey R. Filipek, Reg. No. 41,471, who together constitute the firm of WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P., as well as any other attorneys and agents associated with Customer No. 000513, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys and agents named herein to accept and follow instructions from KEIL & SCHAAFHAUSEN as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and myself. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by me.

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| Direct Correspondence to: <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: 20px auto; text-align: center; line-height: 100px;"> CUSTOMER NO. 000513 </div> | Direct Telephone Calls to: WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Phone: (202) 721-8200 Fax: (202) 721-8250 |
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